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HUNGARIAN WEATHER REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 1951

The weather was unusually mild in February. Mean temperature for the month was 3-4 degrees (centigrade used throughout) higher than normal, with a positive deviation of 2.8 degrees at Paradfurdo, 4.3 degrees at Debrecen, and 4.4 degrees at Mohacs, Nyiregyhaza, and Turkeve.

In January, the weather in Hungary is usually marked by lasting cold, and in February, intermittent, intense cold is the rule. The coldest temperature recorded in Hungary, -34 degrees, was reported at Kecskemet in February 1929. This February, there were no lasting or intense cold waves. In most parts of the country, the temperature did not drop below -5 degrees, and the lowest temperature recorded at Szombathely was only -2.9 degrees, and at Keszthely -1.5 degrees. With few exceptions, thaw occurred daily. There have been only 12 milder Februaries since 1780, and five of these were since the turn of the century.

Precipitation was slight in most parts of the country during the first half of the month, but leveled out during the second half, with considerable excesses over normal reported in some places. The region of the low r Raba and Repce rivers was drier than usual. Precipitation at Petohaza totaled 15.6 millimeters, or 51 percent of normal; at Sttor, 16.5 millimeters, or 53 percent; at Kornye, 16.9 millimeters, or 61 percent; at Fertod, 17.7 millimeters, or 57 percent; at Belede, 18.0 millimeters, or 55 percent; at Fertoszentmiklos, 19.2 millimeters, or 62 percent; and at Kapuvar, 20.0 millimeters, or 67 percent of normal.

There was much more precipitation in the southern counties and in the region of the Bodrog River, with 109.7 millimeters, or 333 percent of normal at Alsoszentmarton; 108.3 millimeters, or 310 percent, at Sellye; 98.8 millimeters, or 268 percent, at Bakonya; 97.8 millimeters, or 279 percent, at Szentegat; and 95.6 millimeters, or 282 percent of normal at Ketujfalu. In the northeast, there was 89.0 millimeters' precipitation at Tokaj, or 296 percent of normal, and 79.0 millimeters, or 304 percent, at Satoraljaujhely. In most of these places, an amount of precipitation equal to the normal for the entire month, or 20-25 millimeters, fell in one day. The percentages are relatively high because February is usually the driest month of the year.

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In addition to mild temperatures and heavy precipitation, February weather was remarkable because of its storms and hail. On the first day of the month, the general temperature was 4-6 degrees, reaching 8 degrees at Salgotarjan, Tarcal, and Szolnok. A cold period began on the morning of 2 February with the entrance of cold continental air from eastern Europe. The three points at which cold air usually enters the Carpathian basin are the Deveny Gate, where the Danube passes through the mountains in the northwest; the Orosva Gate, where the Danube leaves the Carpathian basin; and the third, the lowest part of the northeast Carpathians. On 2 February, cold air entered almost simultaneously at all three places. The cold air arrived with a northwest wind at Mosonmagyarovar and Sopron, with a northeast wind at Miskolc and Nyiregyhaza, and with a southeast wind at Baja. The temperature remained above freezing for the longest period within the Danube-Tisza interfluve.

The cold wave lasted for only a few days. The 2d was the coldest day of the month in the northeastern counties, the 3d was the coldest in the vicinities of Pecs and Szekszard, and the lowest temperatures at the southern border were recorded on the dawn of the 4th, when most temperatures in the south were below -5 degrees. A temperature of -6 degrees was recorded at Nyiregyhaza and -5 degrees at Diosgyor and Nyirbeltek on the morning of 2 and 3 February. The lowest temperature of the month, -11 degrees, was recorded at the soil surface at Nyiregyhaza, on the morning of the 3d.

During the first 3 days of the month, frost lasted all day in some scattered places. Slightly warmer air moving in from the Balkans gave rise to snow in many places. On the 5th, a brisk southern wind covered the entire country with a mass of mild air, causing the temperature to jump to 5 degrees at the northern border, and to 9-10 degrees in the south. The temperature reached as high as 11 degrees at Kaposvar and Pecs. The rapid rise in temperature caused the existing snow layer to melt everywhere but in the higher mountains.

This mild wave was followed on the 6th and 7th by masses of warm air from the western basin of the Mediterranean. The arrival of the warm air and 6-7 hours of sunshine resulted in unusually mild temperatures on the 7th, which, except in narrow zones of the south and west, was the warmest day of the month. The temperature at Budapest on the 7th reached 12.6 degrees, exceeding the highest temperature previously recorded for that day, 11 degrees. The temperature across the country rose above 10 degrees, exceeding 15 degrees in several places. The highest temperatures were: Gyor 15.1 degrees, Mosonmagyarovar 15.4, Bekescsaba 16.4, Turkeve 16.5, and Debrecen 17.4 degrees. In contrast, in part of eastern Europe the highest temperatures recorded on this day were -15 and -17 degrees.

Following the unusual mild wave, the temperature began to drop, especially during the night. Scattered frost recommenced on the morning of the 9th, becoming general on the 10th and 11th. The cooling was the result of cold air moving in from the east, and also loss of heat through radiation due to clear skies.

Another warm wave began on the 12th, and on the 13th the temperature everywhere, except on the eastern border, rose above 10 degrees and exceeded 15 degrees in many places. A high of 17 degrees was recorded at Sopron and at Szentgotthard, and 16 degrees at Mohacs, Kaposvar, and Kalocsa. The very mild temperatures produced summery weather on the 14th. A cooler mass of air moving in from the west caused rain storms in the region of Nagykanizsa and Gyekenyes, and gave rise to hail in the southern border region at Gyekenyes, in the vicinity of Pecs, at Tompa, Szeged, and Totkomlos, and at Csenger. The amount of precipitation was not great, and totaled more than 10 millimeters only at Gyekenyes. The mild weather continued after the intrusion of the cool wave, and on the 15th the general temperature returned to 10-13 degrees, and rose as high as 14.5 degrees at Keszthely.

The mild wave prevailed through the next few days, although at the same time, the temperature in the region of the Urals dropped to -35 and -40 degrees, and reached as low as -50 degrees at night.

50X1-HUM

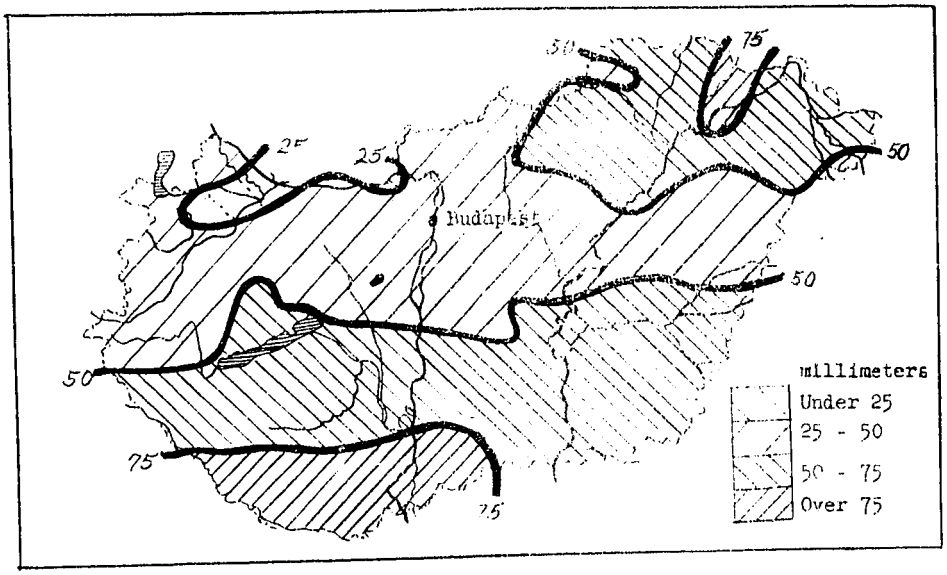
Masses of maritime air arriving from the Atlantic Ocean caused general rain on the 18th. The heaviest precipitation fell in the region of the Drava River and in Zemplen and Szatmar counties, with 24 millimeters recorded at Barcs, 15 millimeters at Zalaegerszeg and Vasarosnameny, and 13 millimeters at Siklos. The rain continued on the 19th, and 21 millimeters were recorded at Siklos and 19 millimeters at Mohacs. After a pause on the 20th, rain recommenced across the country on the 21st. A considerable amount of precipitation fell in a wide zone from the Drava River to the northeastern border, with 51 millimeters reported at Paradeasvar, 43 millimeters at Tarjankavolgy, 39 at Sirok, 30 at Szentgeteerar, 27 at Lillafured, and 25 millimeters at Tokaj.

Precipitation on the 22d was confined mostly to the southern counties, accompanied in many places by thunder and lightning. Storms, mostly accompanied by hail, were reported at Pecs, Szeged, Bogyiszlo, Baja, Hodmezovasarhely, Mezohegyes, Medgyesbodzas, and Peregpuszta. The storms and hail were repeated on the 23d, but precipitation amounted to only 1-2 millimeters. Storms were reported at Kaldo, Kormend, Keszthely (hail), Peregpuszta, Kaposvar, and Bottorca (also with hail). Rain continued to fall west of the Danube on the 24th, though in smaller quantities, and on the 25th there was general rain. Precipitation recorded at Abaszentmarton totaled 32 millimeters; at Mount Misina, 31; at Pecs and Baja, 29; and at Somogyvar and Kalocsa, 28 millimeters. On the 26th, 35 millimeters' precipitation fell at Toke, 32 millimeters at Tolcsva, 30 at Tokaj, 29 at Nyirlugos, and 28 at Szarvar, Szentes, and Kistelek. These quantities are significant, since they are approximately equal to the normal precipitation for the entire month of February. There was precipitation on the last 3 days of the month, but the amount did not total 10 millimeters. During this rainy period, the daily temperature remained at 5-10 degrees, occasionally exceeding 10 degrees. In general, only light frost formed during the night.

The mild, rainy weather was caused by the continuous arrival of masses of maritime air from the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea, which gave rise to weather resembling spring in the southern and southwestern portions of the country. Simultaneously, cold air was piling up in eastern Europe. Barometric pressure at the center of this cold area, related to pressure at sea level, reached 800 millimeters of mercury, which approaches the all-time high.

During the last days of the month, most part of the country was covered by cold air. There was frost nearly everywhere on the 28th, but 6-8 hours of sunshine brought the temperature up to 4-6 degrees during the day. These temperatures, however, are below the normal, and the month ended with colder weather than usual.

The following map shows the distribution of rainfall in Hungary in February 1951



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